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Surgeon General's Dental Corps birthday message

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[NO COMMENTS]

By Vice Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, U.S. Navy Surgeon General



On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Navy Dental Corps as they celebrate 100 years of sacrifice, service, honor and commitment. Our dentists have served in times of peace and war to ensure dental readiness and optimize dental health for those entrusted to their care.

The Dental Corps has a proud history dating back to its origin on August 22, 1912, when President Taft signed into law the act passed by the 62th Congress, establishing the Navy Dental Corps. From the original cadre of 30 assistant dental surgeons, the Dental Corps

has grown in both size and capability.

From World War I to the recent war in Afghanistan, our Dental Corps continues to maintain high operational readiness for all who deploy. They serve with Marine Expeditionary Units and aboard ships, assuming roles in triage and surgical support at Marine Battalion Aid Stations and Battle Dressing Stations. Their mobile dental units are capable of providing dental care on any platform. The Navy Dental Corps continues to focus heavily on disease prevention, a quality that distinguishes their corps today.

Dental personnel continue to support our maritime strategy through humanitarian relief and disaster response missions around the world. Humanitarian assistance missions, Continuing Promise and Pacific Partnership, make lasting impressions on thousands of people in need of dental care. Their work, in times of peace and conflict, have earned the Dental Corps a prominent place in the proud history of the United States Navy.

It is their honor, courage, and commitment that we commemorate today. We applaud the men and women of the Dental Corps and all they do to ensure our nation has a medically ready, fit, and fighting force. Service men and women can always count on the Navy Dental Corps to provide quality and compassionate patient and family – centered health care.

To the over 2,500 active duty and reservist Dental Corps personnel, I thank you for your service and for the sacrifice of you and your families. Happy 100th Birthday Dental Corps!

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